

REMARKS

In this Request for Continued Examination and Amendment:

Figures 1B, 1C3 to 1C6, 1C8 to 1C9, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F1 to 2F2, 2G1 to 2G2, 3B2 to 3B3, and 3C1 to 3C5 have been canceled and are labeled as “Annotated Sheets” in accordance with MPEP 608.02(t) and 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Original Figures 1C1, 1C2, 1C7, 1D1, 1D2, 1D3, 2D, and 3B1 have been re-numbered as Figures 1B1, 1B2, 1B3, 1C1, 1C2, 1C3, 2B, and 3B respectively. The numbering and “prior art” labels have been formalized in the re-numbered figures. Similarly, numbering and “prior art” labels in Figures 1A, 1C1, 1C2, 1C7, 1D2, and 2D have also been formalized. No new matter is introduced in the amended Figures. All the above mentioned figures are labeled as “Replacement Sheets” in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Formal drawings for Figures 4A to 4D and 5 are submitted as “Replacement Sheets” in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(d). No new matter is introduced in the formal drawings.

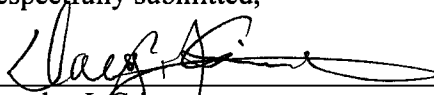
Portions of the specification under “Description of Related Art” and “Brief Description of Drawings” have been amended to reflect changes in figure numbering due to cancellation of some Figures. Other amendments in the specification have been made to correct language issues in the original descriptions. No new matter has been added in the amendments of the specification.

Claims 1-8, 11-24, 27 and 29 were previously allowed. No amendment has been made to the claims in this preliminary amendment. Thus the identical allowed claims 1-8, 11-24, 27 and 29 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to call Douglas J. Crisman at (650) 843-7508 should any issues remain unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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